



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Michael Subin

For Immediate Release

April 27, 2004

Contact: Lou D'Ovidio 240-777-7962

**N
E
W
S

R
E
L
E
A
S
E**

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE APPROVES SUBIN PROPOSAL TO STRENGTHEN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN EXPOSED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The County Council's Public Safety Committee today gave unanimous approval to a proposal by Councilmember Michael Subin to bolster County mental health services available to children who have been exposed to domestic violence.

The Committee approved \$100,000 in additional funding for mental health providers who would work through the County's Child Advocacy Center.

"I am concerned that children who live in homes where there is domestic violence are not routinely offered mental health services," said Councilmember Subin. "The violence these kids are exposed to can do harm to them and perpetuate the cycle of domestic violence when they get to be adults."

The County's Department of Health & Human Services estimates that 3,000 County children may be exposed to domestic violence each year. The Sheriff's Office interviews all petitioners who file for civil protective orders, over 2,000 a year. Most of these homes have children present.

The appropriation now goes to the full Council for approval.

###